

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

CARSON, Julia (Democrat)  
Representative, 7th District, Indiana  
Elected 1996 to the 105th Congress  
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



### BACKGROUND

Born: Louisville, KY - 8 July 1938

Home: Indianapolis, Indiana

Marital status: Divorced - 2 children

Religion: Baptist

Education: Attended Martin University, 1994-5 (political science)

Military: None

Profession: Clothing store owner; human resources manager; congressional aide

Political: Indiana House, 1973-77; Indiana Senate, 1977-91; Center Township trustee, 1991-97; in Nov 96 defeated Virginia Blankenbaker (R) with 52.6% of the vote for the old 10<sup>th</sup> District seat being vacated by the retiring Rep Andrew Jacobs, Jr (D); reelected in 1998 with 87.2% and in 2000 with 59% of the vote. In 2002 elected to the newly drawn 7<sup>th</sup> District with 53% of the vote.

Rep Carson often aligns herself with the Progressive Caucus, a group that includes some of the House's most liberal Democrats. She brings to her work a background in helping the urban poor receive social services including education and job training programs. In the 106th Congress, in the wake of several allegations of sexual harassment in the military, supported a bill reauthorizing until December 31, 2002, a VA program that provides counseling and medical treatment to veterans who were sexually abused or raped while serving in the military. Noted that it is estimated that 35 to 50 percent of all female veterans have reported at least one incident of sexual harassment while serving in the military. Signed a "Dear Colleague" ltr to the HASC and HAC Subc on Defense asking for two additional KC-130J tankers for the Marine Corps. Belonged to the former C-130 Modernization Caucus. Allison Engine Company (C-130s) is a major employer in the district.

In the 107th Congress, drew attention to a decision by the Navy that exonerates the late Charles Butler McVay, III, captain of the USS Indianapolis, who was court-martialed and convicted 56 years ago after his ship sank in the closing days of World War II. Supported legislation after the September 01 terrorist attack to Federalize airport security and to provide a reward to persons supplying information leading to the arrest and conviction of persons responsible for placing anthrax spores in the US mail system. Also supported a bill to revise and improve veterans' employment, training, and placement services. In October 2002 opposed granting President Bush authority to use US military forces against Iraq.

At the beginning of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress came off the Veterans' Affairs Cmte on which she had served since 1997, and took a seat on the Transportation Cmte. Additional: Born to a teenage single mother, she waited tables, delivered newspapers, and did farm labor to earn money.

AF Bases: None

### COMMITTEES

FINANCIAL SERVICES

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE